

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 07503 080415Z POSS DUPE
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 AGRE-00 EB-08 H-01 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 SS-15
NSC-05 SP-02 OES-07 /067 W
-----012147 081527Z /41
R 080410Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6429

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, US, EG
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

REFERENCE: STATE 52783

1. AMBASSADOR HAD OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF KAISSOUNI
INFORMALLY ON CONTENTS OF REFTEL. THIS WAS FOLLOWED UP
ON MARCH 8 BY FORMAL PRESENTATION TO GAMAL EL NAZER OF
MINISTRY ECONOMY AND INVESTMENT AUTHORITY BY USAID
DIRECTOR.

2. USAID DIRECTOR MADE ALL MAJOR POINTS COVERED BY
REFTEL. EL NAZER'S RESPONSES WERE BASICALLY AS FOLLOWS:

A. WHILE GOE WOULD HAVE WELCOMED ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE
IF IT WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE, GOE UNDERSTANDS THE
MAGNITUDE OF OUR CURRENT EFFORT AND APPRECIATES THE
STATEMENT OF CONTINUITY REPRESENTED IN OUR CURRENT FY 79
CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION.

B. GOE WELCOMES OUR WILLINGNESS TO RELOOK AT INTERNAL
PRIORITIES IN AID PROGRAMS TO ASSURE THAT WHAT WE PROJECT
DOING OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS IS IN FACT AS CLOSELY
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 07503 080415Z POSS DUPE

ALIGNED TO EGYPTIAN DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AS POSSIBLE.
HE RECOGNIZED OUR INTENT TO MOVE ON AN FY 78 CAIRO SEWAGE
PROJECT WAS A SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF AID EFFORTS AT BEING
RESPONSIVE TO NEWLY DEFINED KEY PRIORITY AREAS.

C. GOE HIGHLY APPRECIATIVE OF INCREASE IN GRANT AID
REFLECTED IN FY 79 CP.

D. GOE WELCOMES US EXPRESSION OF WILLINGNESS TO REMAIN FLEXIBLE REGARDING COMPOSITION OF OVERALL PROGRAM AS BETWEEN CIP AND PROJECTS AS WELL AS AID WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER CERTAIN DOLLAR FUNDING OF LOCAL COSTS FOR SOCIAL PROJECTS, WITH ATTENDANT F/X IMPACT.

E. GOE REMAINS HIGHLY INTERESTED IN TITLE III PROGRAM. AN INTERMINISTERIAL GROUP HAS BEEN FORMED AND A MEETING WILL BE HELD WITH USAID AND THIS INTERMINISTERIAL GROUP NEXT WEEK IN ORDER TO MOVE PLANNING PROCESS FORWARD AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

F. GOE REMAINS HIGHLY DESIROUS OF OBTAINING CCC CREDITS. USAID DIRECTOR SAID HE FELT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO GO FORWARD POSITIVELY ON THIS IF TWO CONDITIONS CAN BE MET. ONE IS MATTER OF ARREARAGES, ON WHICH MAJOR PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. OTHER IS MATTER OF REVISED BANKING PROCEDURES TO ASSURE FUTURE PAYMENTS ARE MADE AUTOMATICALLY AND ON TIME TO AVOID ADDITIONAL ARREARAGES. EL NAZER SAID HE FELT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT NEW BANKING ARRANGEMENTS AND HE WOULD EXPLORE THIS. IN MEANTIME, HE WOULD CONSIDER HAVING MINISTER OF ECONOMY SEND A LETTER TO EMBASSY STATING GOVERNMENT'S INTENT TO FIND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE BANKING PROCEDURES.

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 07503 080415Z POSS DUPE

3. IN SUMMARY, WHILE EL NAZER OBVIOUSLY WOULD HAVE WELCOMED A MORE POSITIVE STATEMENT ON AID REQUEST, AND STILL HOPES THAT OUTSTANDING REQUEST REGARDING PL 480 TITLE 1 CAN ACHIEVE POSITIVE RESPONSE, HE DEMONSTRATED CLEAR APPRECIATION FOR USG BUDGETARY PROBLEMS AND FULL RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUITY IN PRESENT HIGH AID LEVELS REPRESENTED BY CURRENT EFFORTS AND FY 79 CP. DECONTROL FOLLOWING JANUARY 1979. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO07503
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780104-0649
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780394/aaaadbss.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 22d297cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 52783
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3408771
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, US, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/22d297cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014